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## State Overview

### IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO RECORD LOW

*Labor force details for the state, labor market areas, counties, and cities can be found in State Table 1 on page 3.*

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 3.2 percent, the lowest unemployment rate Idaho has experienced and eight-tenths of a percentage point below the 4 percent rate recorded one year ago.

The national unemployment rate decreased a tenth in March to 4.7 percent.

February's stellar growth was followed in March by what may be a return to the steady but less explosive growth Idaho has experienced in recent years. The February growth was a result of unusually warm weather coupled with a strong consumer economy that may have pushed post-Christmas layoffs into March.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted civilian labor force decreased in March from February. The number of unemployed persons dropped 1,100 to 24,500. Employment remained above 700,000 for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive month. However, for the first time since November 2002, the number of workers with jobs in Idaho decreased, falling 2,400 to 733,700. Idaho's labor force has exceeded 700,000 people every month since April 2004, but March's level of 758,200 just fell short of the record 762,000 set in February.

Idaho's employment has steadily increased over the last 12 months. There were 30,200 more people working in February than in March 2005. That was a 4.3 percent increase. Nationally, the number employed increased by over 3 million, just 2.1 percent. The improvement in Idaho's economy and employment situation was further demonstrated by the 5,100 decrease over the year in the number of job-less workers. These changes resulted in a growth in Idaho's labor force of 25,100, or 3.4 percent, since March 2005.

### AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment rates are calculated each month for 10 Labor Market Areas in Idaho — Boise-Nampa, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Coeur d'Alene, Burley, Rexburg, Twin Falls, Grangeville and Hailey. Table 1 lists the counties included in each area.

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Five LMAs had unemployment rates in excess of 3 percent. Grangeville had the highest March rate of 4.8 percent followed by the Burley LMA at 4.6 percent. The other three areas included Lewiston at 3.9 percent, Pocatello at 3.6 percent and Coeur d'Alene at 3.4 percent. These rates were below the level experienced in March 2005.

The other five LMAs had rates below 3 percent. Hailey had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.1 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from February. Idaho Falls was at 2.6 percent while Rexburg, Twin Falls and Boise-Nampa each posted rates of 2.9 percent. These rates were also below the level experienced in March 2005.

### County Labor Force

For the first time, only one county reported an unemployment rate above 7 percent. Clearwater County was at 7.3 percent for March. The next five counties — Adams, Benewah, Payette, Boundary and Shoshone — were above 6 percent. These counties rely heavily on natural resource-based industries — timber, mining and agriculture. One year ago, Clearwater and Adams counties had unemployment rates of 8.3 and 7.4 percent, respectively.

One-third of Idaho's counties reported unemployment rates at or below 3 percent in March. The rates ranged from 3 percent in Franklin and Twin Falls counties to 1.7 percent in Teton County. One year ago, there were only eight counties at or below 3 percent.

### Agriculture

At 37,790, farm employment in Idaho increased 9.3 percent from February to March 2006, and was up 3.7 percent from March 2005. The monthly gain occurred in hired workers where there was a 13.1 percent increase. Agricultural employment normally rises in March following the winter downturn that occurs in November before the harvest ends. This is the time of the year that farmers are out in the field doing prep work and planting. The rainy weather had slowed some of the field work in some areas of the state.

For the first time in many years, the governor will not have to declare drought emergencies for any Idaho counties. The winter snowpack and spring rains are providing more than enough water in the streams and reservoirs — in fact there have been flood warnings in several parts of the state.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed a Surface Water Supply Index that is used in predicting surface water availability. The index combines pre-runoff reservoir storage, or carryover, with forecasts of spring and summer stream flow. Its scale runs from +4.0 for abundant supply to -4.0 for extremely dry conditions with a value of zero indicating a median water supply compared to historic levels. Its values provide a more comprehensive outlook of water availability by combining stream flow forecasts and reservoir storage where appropriate. The index analysis period is from 1971 to present.

The index allows comparison of water availability between basins for drought or flood severity analysis. Threshold values have been determined for some basins to indicate the potential for agricultural irrigation water shortages. In Idaho, the index on April 1 ranged from -1.8 in the Bear River Basin to +3.4 in the Bruneau Basin. At this time last year none of Idaho's basins or regions were in the positive range. As of April 1, only two regions — the Bear River Basin at -1.8 and the Panhandle Basins at -0.8 — were in the negative range. As a result the wa-

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ter outlook for the state is good for this year. More information on the index and its values is available at the following Web site: <http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/watersupply/swsi-main.html>.

Another measure that is frequently referred to is snowpack. The technical name is snow water equivalent and represents the number of inches of water in the snowpack if it was melted. The average year-to-date precipitation percent represents the total precipitation, beginning on Oct. 1, at selected sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on a specific subsequent day. As of April 26, every basin reported the snow equivalent and year-to-date precipitation above 100 percent. The lowest region, at 101 percent, was the Panhandle Basin. The Little Wood River Basin had the highest at 157 percent. For more information on the snow water conditions, go to <http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/data/current.html> and click on Idaho.

### Nonfarm Jobs by Industry Highlights

Nonfarm payroll jobs continued to grow in March, reaching 623,300. That was up 0.8 percent over the month. The number of jobs in March was 4,900 more than February and 27,900 more than March 2005. Service industries gained 3,400 jobs month-over-month whereas the goods-producing industries gained 1,500 jobs. For more information, see State Table 2 on page 5.

The natural resource sector, primarily logging, was one of three industrial sectors that experienced a job loss from February to March. Muddy conditions kept loggers and their equipment out of the woods in March, and the number of jobs dropped from 1,800 to 1,400. Logging jobs normally rebound in April as the roads dry out, but because of the very wet spring, loggers may not be allowed back in the woods until May. The number of jobs in mining was unchanged in March but has increased by 400 from one year ago to 2,200. This is highest number of jobs in March for this sector since 2000.

The loss of 200 jobs in food manufacturing was due to the seasonal reduction in sugar processing. That brought the loss of jobs in food manufacturing to 600 since March 2005. The closure of a meat processing facility in Canyon County was a major factor.

There was also a modest loss of 300 jobs in state education from March 2005, a result of cutbacks due to funding issues at one of the state's universities.

Construction reported the largest gain of all the sectors, adding another 1,600 jobs since February to hit 46,500. That was up 6,800 jobs from March 2005. Over 50 percent of the monthly increase was in special trade contractors, which added 800 new jobs. Heavy

State Table 1: March 2006 Labor Force (preliminary)				
Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
<b>Lewiston MSA</b>	28,581	1,120	3.9	27,461
Nez Perce County	18,570	624	3.4	17,946
Asotin County, WA	10,011	496	5.0	9,516
<b>Boise City-Nampa MSA</b>	289,959	8,453	2.9	281,507
Ada County	193,053	5,205	2.7	187,848
Boise County	3,493	133	3.8	3,360
Canyon County	80,456	2,694	3.3	77,762
Gem County	7,784	309	4.0	7,475
Owyhee County	5,173	112	2.2	5,061
<b>Pocatello MSA</b>	44,663	1,597	3.6	43,065
Bannock County	40,604	1,425	3.5	39,179
Power County	4,059	173	4.3	3,886
<b>Idaho Falls MSA</b>	63,261	1,658	2.6	61,603
Bonneville County	52,268	1,358	2.6	50,910
Jefferson County	10,994	300	2.7	10,693
<b>Coeur d'Alene MSA*</b>	69,326	2,347	3.4	66,979
<b>Burley MicSA</b>	20,568	948	4.6	19,620
Cassia County	10,569	447	4.2	10,122
Minidoka County	9,999	500	5.0	9,498
<b>Rexburg MicSA</b>	22,492	573	2.5	21,919
Fremont County	6,958	230	3.3	6,728
Madison County	15,534	343	2.2	15,191
<b>Twin Falls MicSA</b>	54,244	1,582	2.9	52,662
Jerome County	11,466	318	2.8	11,148
Twin Falls County	42,778	1,264	3.0	41,514
<b>Grangeville SLMA</b>	8,939	427	4.8	8,512
Idaho County	7,167	383	5.3	6,784
Lewis County	1,772	44	2.5	1,728
<b>Hailey SLMA</b>	15,032	317	2.1	14,715
Blaine County	14,415	300	2.1	14,115
Camas County	617	16	2.6	600
Adams County	2,003	127	6.3	1,876
Bear Lake County	3,184	109	3.4	3,074
Benewah County	4,057	257	6.3	3,800
Blackfoot MicSA (Bingham County)	21,117	774	3.7	20,343
Bonner County	21,020	824	3.9	20,196
Boundary County	3,969	242	6.1	3,727
Butte County	1,189	48	4.0	1,141
Caribou County	3,425	164	4.8	3,262
Clark County	578	23	4.1	555
Clearwater County	3,332	244	7.3	3,087
Custer County	2,742	112	4.1	2,630
Mountain Home MicSA (Elmore County)	11,000	460	4.2	10,540
Franklin County	6,489	195	3.0	6,294
Gooding County	8,805	220	2.5	8,585
Moscow MicSA (Latah County)	17,373	407	2.3	16,966
Lemhi County	4,267	223	5.2	4,044
Lincoln County	2,622	98	3.7	2,524
Oneida County	2,399	49	2.0	2,350
Payette County	10,723	556	5.2	10,167
Shoshone County	5,980	360	6.0	5,620
Teton County	4,632	78	1.7	4,553
Valley County	5,048	189	3.7	4,858
Washington County	5,182	218	4.2	4,964
<b>State of Idaho</b>	<b>758,185</b>	<b>24,502</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>733,683</b>
<b>Idaho Cities</b>				
Boise	123,631	3,680	3.0	119,952
Caldwell	22,583	823	3.6	21,760
Coeur d'Alene	31,799	990	3.1	30,809
Idaho Falls	15,831	539	3.4	15,292
Lewiston	31,802	1,209	3.8	30,593
Meridian	29,021	938	3.2	28,083
Nampa	22,904	714	3.1	22,189
Pocatello	21,930	460	2.1	21,470
Twin Falls	15,568	634	4.1	14,933

\* Coeur d'Alene MSA includes all of Kootenai County.

and civil construction jobs rose 500, and there were another 300 jobs in construction of buildings. Employment among special trade contractors was 29,700 in March, an additional 4,100 jobs from March 2005. Heavy and civil construction had 800 more jobs than one year earlier. The building construction area experienced a significant increase over the past 12 months as nearly 1,500 jobs have been added. The outlook for the current year is for continued growth. Most areas in the state are reporting increased commercial construction and growth in home construction activity.

According to the U.S. Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, Idaho ranked ninth in the nation for percent increase in the cost of houses between 2004 and 2005 at 18.64 percent. Nationally the cost of houses increased 12.95 percent. Arizona was first with a 34.89 percent increase in the cost of houses. Michigan had the lowest increase at 3.76 percent. Of the states that border Idaho, Oregon and Washington boxed Idaho in – Oregon with a 19.5 percent increase, ranking eighth, and Washington with an 18.42 percent increase, ranking 10<sup>th</sup>. But over the last five years, only Utah experienced a smaller percent increase in the cost of houses than Idaho at 27.77 percent. Idaho's five-year increase was 49.55 percent. Even with the increase in the cost of houses, residential construction as well as the real estate sector continued to add jobs.

Trade, transportation and utilities added 1,100 jobs during March bringing the total number of jobs to 124,100. Wholesale trade jobs increased in March as agricultural establishments geared up for spring planting. These establishments have two busy seasons – the fall when they buy the crop being harvested and the spring when they sell the seed to be planted. The raw materials are bought from the farmers in the fall to be sold to other farmers in the spring for planting. The variety of raw farm products includes beans, barley, grain, vegetable seed and potato seed. Idaho is one of the major producers of seed in the country.

Retail trade gained 700 jobs in March. Once again building material and garden equipment added the most jobs at 300 because the weather improved and everyone was eager to start their spring home improvement projects. Better weather and a desire by consumers to cut costs have increased the demand at local home improvement and garden stores, thus increasing the number of jobs available. The additional 400 jobs were spread throughout the remaining sectors with motor vehicles and general merchandise stores accounting for half of the increase. Spring is always a great time for retail trade – good weather brings out shopping in most people whether it is for the home, yard or just themselves.

The accommodation and food services sector had a great month in March, adding 600 jobs. Great ski conditions contributed to the extended winter season at local ski resorts and other lodging facilities. There is usually a job decrease in this area during March, but the first great season in years was reflected in the year-over-year numbers, which showed 1,500 additional jobs. The largest contributor to the monthly job growth was food services and drinking places, up 400. The month-over-month increase is normal in the spring as drive-ins in the rural areas start opening for the summer season and other eating places generally experience an increase in activity. In addition, new fast food and dining establishments seem to be popping up as quickly as the spring flowers. The growth for accommodation since March 2005 was only 800.

Administrative and support services added 500 jobs in March bringing the total number to 37,000. Customer service centers, temporary help agencies and janitorial services are included in this sector. Since March 2005, there have been 2,300 new jobs, primarily in customer service. Most, but not all, customer service jobs are included in this particular industrial sector. There also are customer service groups in many other industries, such as banking, insurance and retail sales. As of December 2005, Idaho had 114 customer service centers with about 18,000 jobs. The number of jobs in each center range up to over 1,600.

The most significant job gains in the last 12 months have been in construction, which was up 6,400; transportation, trade and utilities, which were up 5,000; leisure and hospitality, which rose 4,500; administrative and support services and waste management, which increased 2,800; financial activities, up 2,600; health care and social assistance, which rose 2,500; accommodation and food service, which increased 2,300; and local government, which was up 2,100. The job growth in these sectors highlights the expansion of Idaho's economy. More home and buildings are needed for the increase in population and new commercial ventures. As the population grows, more schools are required for more children, and as that growing population ages, the demand for health care increases – not just in hospitals but for doctors, medical services and care facilities, as well. The growth in administrative and support services reflects the growth in customer service centers as well as temporary employment agencies. Idaho's jobs structure is shifting from manufacturing to services.

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State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	% Change From				
	Mar 2006*	Feb 2006	Mar 2005	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	623,300	618,400	595,400	0.8	4.7
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	112,800	111,300	106,000	1.3	6.4
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	3,600	4,000	3,500	-10.0	2.9
Logging	1,400	1,800	1,700	-22.2	-17.6
Mining	2,200	2,200	1,800	0.0	22.2
Metal Ore Mining	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
<b>Construction</b>	46,500	44,900	40,100	3.6	16.0
<b>Manufacturing</b>	62,700	62,400	62,400	0.5	0.5
Durable Goods	40,500	40,100	39,400	1.0	2.8
Wood Product Manufacturing	7,800	7,700	7,300	1.3	6.8
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,500	2,500	2,600	0.0	-3.8
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,800	1,700	1,400	5.9	28.6
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,500	3,500	3,300	0.0	6.1
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,900	3,800	3,700	2.6	5.4
Machinery Manufacturing	2,700	2,700	2,600	0.0	3.8
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	16,000	15,900	16,400	0.6	-2.4
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,900	2,900	2,700	0.0	7.4
Other Durable Goods	7,200	7,100	6,700	1.4	7.5
Nondurable Goods	22,200	22,300	23,000	-0.4	-3.5
Food Manufacturing	14,100	14,300	14,700	-1.4	-4.1
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	6,900	6,900	7,000	0.0	-1.4
Paper Manufacturing	1,500	1,600	1,600	-6.3	-6.3
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	2,800	2,600	2,900	7.7	-3.4
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	510,500	507,100	489,400	0.7	4.3
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	124,100	123,000	119,100	0.9	4.2
Trade	104,900	103,900	100,400	1.0	4.5
Wholesale Trade	27,700	27,400	26,500	1.1	4.5
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,900	12,800	12,200	0.8	5.7
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	12,400	12,300	12,000	0.8	3.3
Retail Trade	77,200	76,500	73,900	0.9	4.5
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	11,700	11,600	11,200	0.9	4.5
Building Material and Garden Equipment	9,300	9,000	8,400	3.3	10.7
Food & Beverage Stores	12,100	12,100	11,700	0.0	3.4
General Merchandise Stores	16,500	16,400	15,400	0.6	7.1
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	19,200	19,100	18,700	0.5	2.7
Utilities	2,000	1,900	1,900	5.3	5.3
Transportation & Warehousing	17,200	17,200	16,800	0.0	2.4
Rail Transportation	1,100	1,100	1,100	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	8,900	8,900	8,500	0.0	4.7
<b>Information</b>	10,900	10,900	10,800	0.0	0.9
Telecommunications	4,500	4,500	4,400	0.0	2.3
<b>Financial Activities</b>	31,100	30,900	28,500	0.6	9.1
Finance & Insurance	22,900	22,700	21,000	0.9	9.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	8,200	8,200	7,500	0.0	9.3
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	77,800	77,000	74,000	1.0	5.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	31,100	31,000	30,400	0.3	2.3
Scientific Research & Development	7,000	7,000	7,600	0.0	-7.9
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,900	7,900	7,600	0.0	3.9
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	38,800	38,100	36,000	1.8	7.8
Administrative & Support Services	37,000	36,500	34,700	1.4	6.6
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	70,300	69,900	67,500	0.6	4.1
Educational Services	8,700	8,700	8,400	0.0	3.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	61,600	61,200	59,100	0.7	4.2
Hospitals	13,400	13,300	13,200	0.8	1.5
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	59,400	58,700	54,900	1.2	8.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9,100	9,000	6,900	1.1	31.9
Accommodation & Food Services	50,300	49,700	48,000	1.2	4.8
Accommodation	9,300	9,100	7,800	2.2	19.2
Food Services & Drinking Places	41,000	40,600	40,200	1.0	2.0
<b>Other Services</b>	18,800	18,600	18,100	1.1	3.9
<b>Total Government</b>	118,100	118,100	116,500	0.0	1.4
Federal Government	11,700	11,600	12,200	0.9	-4.1
State & Local Government	106,400	106,500	104,300	-0.1	2.0
State Government	30,000	30,100	30,000	-0.3	0.0
State Government Education	14,800	14,900	15,100	-0.7	-2.0
State Government Administration	15,200	15,200	14,900	0.0	2.0
Local Government	76,400	76,400	74,300	0.0	2.8
Local Government Education	40,600	40,600	39,500	0.0	2.8
Local Government Administration	32,900	32,900	31,900	0.0	3.1
Local Government Tribes	2,900	2,900	2,900	0.0	0.0

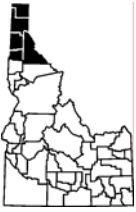
\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\* Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

## State Table 3: Economic Indicators

	Mar 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	758,200	762,000	733,100	-0.5	3.4
Unemployment	24,500	25,600	29,600	-4.3	-17.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.4	4.0		
Total Employment	733,700	736,400	703,500	-0.4	4.3
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	753,100	757,100	728,900	-0.5	3.3
Unemployment	30,400	32,800	36,500	-7.3	-16.7
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.3	5.0		
Total Employment	722,700	724,300	692,400	-0.2	4.4
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <sup>(2)</sup>	4.7	4.8	5.1		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX <sup>(2)</sup>					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	195.3	194.2	188.6	0.6	3.6
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	199.8	198.7	193.3	0.6	3.4
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	37,790	34,580	36,450	9.3	3.7
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	360	360	360	0.0	0.0
Hired Workers	27,690	24,480	26,350	13.1	5.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<b>Claims Activities</b>					
Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	7,409	7,750	9,234	-4.4	-19.8
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	67,565	75,362	78,062	-10.3	-13.4
<b>Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup></b>					
Weeks Compensated	57,178	63,770	81,119	-10.3	-29.5
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$13,554,898	\$15,109,875	\$18,588,756	-10.3	-27.1
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$237.06	\$236.94	\$229.15	0.1	3.5
Covered Employers	47,511	47,323	44,439	0.4	6.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$122,619,709	\$127,653,452	\$140,407,847	-3.9	-12.7
(1) Preliminary Estimate					
(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics					
(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims					
(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent					
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liabile Activities					





# Panhandle News

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

Kootenai County, which comprises the Coeur d'Alene Metropolitan Statistical Area, continues to attract lots of national attention for its economic success. In its May issue, Inc. magazine rated the area the fifth fastest-growing metropolitan area in the United States, landing it near the top of the list of "boomtowns" ideal for entrepreneurs.

The magazine's cover story gave Kootenai County an even bigger boost. It described how much Buck Knives gained by moving its manufacturing business from the San Diego area to Post Falls in early 2005. Although Idaho offered only one major incentive—training grants of up to \$3,000 for each employee, Buck chose Idaho over other contenders because it offered lower operating costs and a more predictable regulatory environment. In Idaho, Buck's electric bills run about 30 percent of what the company would pay in California. Workers' compensation costs are 10 percent, and labor costs are 75 percent.

The county's attractiveness to businesses, strong economic growth and recent surges in tourists and residents have created many business opportunities. Between 2003 and 2005, the number of private-sector employers in Kootenai County grew an impressive 11.5 percent from 4,136 to 4,610 while the number of private-sector employers in the U.S. grew 4 percent. Of the 474 new businesses, 196 were in construction; 63 in professional and business services; 56 in finance, real estate and related activities; 42 in health care; 33 in restaurants; 17 in manufacturing; 16 in retail trade and 51 in a variety of other industries.

The same factors propelling business growth in Kootenai County did the same in the rest of the Panhandle. Bonner and Boundary counties saw even faster growth in the number of private-sector employers than Kootenai County and more than three times faster than the nation. Bonner County's private-sector employers increased 12.7 percent from 1,388 in 2003 to 1,564 in 2005, while Boundary County's

Panhandle Table 1: Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment Kootenai County

	Mar 2006*	Feb 2006	Mar 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	69,330	69,170	67,610	0.2	2.5
Unemployed	2,350	2,500	2,860	-6.0	-17.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.6	4.2		
Total Employment	66,980	66,670	64,750	0.5	3.4
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	67,960	68,160	66,420	-0.3	2.3
Unemployed	3,110	3,540	3,780	-12.1	-17.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	5.2	5.7		
Total Employment	64,850	64,620	62,640	0.4	3.5
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	52,380	51,530	49,860	1.6	5.1
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	10,410	10,190	9,540	2.2	9.1
Natural Resources & Mining	390	440	370	-11.4	5.4
Construction	5,360	5,130	4,760	4.5	12.6
Manufacturing	4,660	4,620	4,410	0.9	5.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,140	1,130	1,000	0.9	14.0
Other Manufacturing	3,520	3,490	3,410	0.9	3.2
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	41,970	41,340	40,320	1.5	4.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9,600	9,480	9,160	1.3	4.8
Wholesale Trade	1,440	1,430	1,290	0.7	11.6
Retail Trade	7,210	7,090	6,920	1.7	4.2
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	950	960	950	-1.0	0.0
Information	1,000	990	1,050	1.0	-4.8
Financial Activities	2,840	2,790	2,510	1.8	13.1
Professional & Business Services	5,860	5,660	5,820	3.5	0.7
Educational & Health Services	5,540	5,530	5,240	0.2	5.7
Leisure & Hospitality	6,140	5,940	5,920	3.4	3.7
Other Services	1,480	1,480	1,380	0.0	7.2
Government Education	3,810	3,800	3,710	0.3	2.7
Government Administration	5,030	5,020	4,890	0.2	2.9
Government Tribes	670	650	640	3.1	4.7

\* Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

private-sector employers increased 12.5 percent from 360 in 2003 to 405 in 2005. Almost half of the new businesses in Bonner County were in construction. While the U.S. lost 11,966 manufacturers between 2003 and 2005, Bonner County added seven. In addition, the county added 23 finance and real estate offices, 23 new retail stores, eight health care providers, seven restaurants and 26 new businesses in other industries. Of Boundary County's 45 new businesses, 15 were in construction, and the rest were in a wide variety of industries. The two Panhandle counties with the slowest job and population growth did not experience strong business growth. The number of private-sector employers in Shoshone County stood stable at 395. Benewah County's private-sector employers grew 2.6 percent from 285 to 292 with tourism and construction responsible for most of the new businesses.

As Panhandle Table 1 on page 7 shows, in March, the Coeur d'Alene area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.4 percent — the lowest rate since at least 1970. Nonfarm payroll jobs were 5.1 percent higher this March than in March 2005. Construction was the largest source of new jobs, but almost every industrial sector added jobs during the previous 12 months.

The other Panhandle counties also are enjoying relatively low unemployment. Benewah County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March was 6.3 percent, tying with May 2005 for the honor of being the lowest rate since 1990. Bonner County's rate fell to 3.9 percent in March, the lowest rate since at least 1970. Its unemployment rate, which was often nearly double the U.S. unemployment rate in the 1980s and 1990s, has been lower than the national rate since June 2005. Boundary County's rate fell to 6.1 percent, its lowest rate since the closures of the CEDU schools in late March 2005. Right before the closures, Boundary County's rate had fallen to 5.3 percent — its lowest level since 1990. Shoshone County's unemployment rate, which rarely fell below 10 percent between 1982 and 2004, continued to edge down, falling to 6 percent in March.

Panhandle Table 2: Total Personal Income & Per Capita Income			
Total Personal Income <i>(in millions of dollars)</i>			
Area/County	2003	2004	Growth
Panhandle	4,349	4,720	8.5%
Benewah County	193	211	9.5%
Bonner County	837	903	7.8%
Boundary County	184	199	7.6%
Kootenai County	2,845	3,098	8.9%
Shoshone County	290	310	7.1%
State of Idaho	34,654	37,497	8.2%
United States	9,157,257	9,705,504	6.0%
Per Capita Income <i>(Total Personal Income Divided by Total Population)</i>			
Area	2003	2004	Growth
Panhandle	\$23,019	\$24,254	5.4%
Benewah County	\$21,348	\$23,378	9.5%
Bonner County	\$21,378	\$22,658	6.0%
Boundary County	\$18,127	\$19,064	5.2%
Kootenai County	\$24,194	\$25,297	4.6%
Shoshone County	\$22,322	\$24,083	7.9%
State of Idaho	\$25,330	\$26,877	6.1%
United States	\$31,484	\$33,050	5.0%

Falling unemployment has changed the Panhandle job market from an employer's market to a job seeker's market. To help local businesses fill their job openings, the Idaho Commerce & Labor office in Coeur d'Alene worked with North Idaho College and the chambers of commerce in Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Post Falls and Rathdrum to hold the largest job fair ever in the Idaho Panhandle. The job fair, held on April 19 at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds in Coeur d'Alene, drew 120 employers and about 4,000 job seekers.

Another job fair will be held in Sandpoint on June 1. The Idaho Commerce & Labor office in Sandpoint and the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce, with assistance from North Idaho College and the University of Idaho, are sponsoring the event at the Bonner County Fair Grounds. More information about the employers participating will become available over the next couple of weeks.

### Income in Panhandle Counties

Low unemployment rates, rapid employment growth and rising wages in the Panhandle led to rapid income growth between 2003 and 2004. Panhandle Table 2 shows growth of total personal income and per capita income between 2003 and 2004 in the five Panhandle counties, based on income statistics recently released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. All five Panhandle counties enjoyed faster personal income growth than the United States, and only Kootenai County had slower per capita income growth.

Personal income is all income going to individuals as opposed to governments or corporations. About half of total personal income comes from wages and salaries paid to local residents; the rest comes from other labor income; earnings of business proprietors; retirement income; dividend, interest and rental payments to local residents; and transfer payments such as Social Security or unemployment insurance compensation. Per capita income, which is the most commonly used measure of counties' economic well-being, is total personal income divided by total population — every man, woman and child.

Has the Panhandle's surge in personal income continued since 2004? Evidence suggests that it has. Wages and salaries make up about half of personal income, so the strong growth in wages and salaries for jobs covered by unemployment insurance in the Panhandle between 2004 and 2005, shown in Panhandle Table 3 on page 9, suggests that Panhandle incomes continued to rise rapidly. Boundary County may be the only Panhandle county that did not experience strong growth between 2004 and 2005 as total wages and salaries fell following the closures of the CEDU schools. On the other hand, its neighbor, Bonner County, probably experienced an especially strong surge in income growth because wages and salaries grew even faster between 2004 and 2005 than the year before. Shoshone County's rapid wage growth — along with the effect of high silver prices on proprietors' income and dividends on mining stocks — suggests that its income surged in 2005 and continues to surge in 2006.

Panhandle Table 4 on page 9 shows the percentage of total personal income coming from wages and salaries; proprietors' income; dividends, rent and interest; retirement



Panhandle Table 3: Growth Rates of Total Wages & Salaries for Jobs Covered by Unemployment Insurance

Area	Growth 2003-2004	Growth* 2004-2005
Panhandle	11.2%	10.3%
Benewah County	8.9%	7.3%
Bonner County	10.4%	15.9%
Boundary County	10.2%	-4.5%
Kootenai County	12.0%	10.1%
Shoshone County	7.8%	11.0%
State of Idaho	7.0%	8.0%
United States	5.4%	5.9%

*\*2004-2005 growth is based on the growth between the first three quarters of 2004 and the first three quarters of 2005*

income; income maintenance and unemployment insurance; and other sources. What may be of most interest is the role retirement income plays in the five Panhandle counties. In all five, retirement income makes up a larger percentage of income than in the nation. Kootenai County's percentage is the smallest of the five, however, raising questions about the view of so many outsider observers that the county only is a retirement community as opposed to the vibrant diversified economy that it is. A significant portion of the dividends, interest and rent payments received by Panhandle residents presumably also accrue to retirees.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Benewah County

- The last issue of Idaho Employment mentioned that four large housing developments are proposed for Plummer, a city of nearly 1,000 residents. The city says it cannot accommodate those developments until it expands its sewer system, which is operating at full capacity. The earliest possible date for expansion would be the spring of 2007. The city expects to build a new treatment plant on 10 acres north of the current lagoons. The new plant would replace the existing one, built in 1980. The city is seeking a grant to supplement a \$2 million revenue bond approved by voters in 2003. In addition, the city currently is evaluating the capacity

of its water system. Concerns about sewer and water capacity currently are affecting many Panhandle communities' abilities to accommodate new population and business growth.

### Boundary County

- Mike Higgins recently returned to his hometown of Bonners Ferry to open the Ming Center on Main Street, where he offers Kung Fu martial arts classes and other instructors offer classes in yoga and Feldenkrais, which uses gentle movement and directed attention to improve movement and enhance human functioning. Higgins expects that Tai Chi and tumbling classes also will be offered in the near future.

### Kootenai County

- The Salvation Army announced May 1 that Coeur d'Alene is one of six cities in the West — and 30 nationwide — to receive a Kroc community center. The Salvation Army will own and operate the centers, which were made possible by a \$1.5 billion gift from Joan Kroc, widow of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc. The project includes \$32.5 million for construction of the building and another \$32.5 million to fund an endowment to offset operating expenses. Ground may be broken as early as next spring on a 109,000-square-foot facility on 12 acres. The Kroc center probably will open 14 to 16 months after the groundbreaking. Many people are especially excited about the Kroc Center's indoor swimming pool, which will be the county's only public swimming pool. In addition, the building will include classrooms, a stage, an indoor play area, a 300-seat chapel, a lounge with computer access, a cardio-fitness center, jogging track and climbing wall. The facility is expected to be open more than 100 hours a week.
- Gozzer Ranch Golf & Lake Club, a 700-acre luxury home and golf community, is under construction on a hillside east of Highway 97 above Lake Coeur d'Alene. According to its developer, Discovery Land Co., the community will include an 18-hole golf course in 2007, four ponds for swimming and skating, 345 homes, 35 cabins and 40 cottages. Discovery owns the Arrow Point Marina, where it recently added Eddie's Bar and Grill, a 4,600-square-foot restaurant. Many residents

Panhandle Table 4: Source of Total Personal Income

	Wages & Salaries	Proprietors' Income	Dividends, Interest & Rent	Retirement Income	Welfare & Unemp. Ins.	Other Income
Panhandle	45.0%	8.8%	16.8%	17.5%	1.4%	9.8%
Benewah County	51.4%	7.5%	14.4%	21.9%	1.7%	2.1%
Bonner County	41.5%	10.1%	20.8%	17.6%	1.4%	8.0%
Boundary County	49.9%	8.8%	15.1%	21.5%	2.0%	1.8%
Kootenai County	45.9%	8.7%	16.0%	16.1%	1.2%	11.6%
Shoshone County	38.2%	7.2%	16.8%	25.5%	2.4%	7.6%
State of Idaho	50.3%	12.3%	16.3%	13.5%	1.2%	6.0%
United States	55.5%	9.2%	15.8%	12.9%	1.5%	4.8%

will reach their homes from the Coeur d'Alene city boat dock, which is only 10 minutes by boat from Arrow Point. In 2005, Discovery purchased additional property at Squaw Bay, where it plans to break ground on an 80-slip marina, a convenience store and condominiums next year. This summer, the development's first store, Huttons, a 1950s themed store, will open.

- The Carnival cruise line recently awarded a large contract to the Digital Color Print Center in Coeur d'Alene. Under the contract, the center will scan and reproduce 15 original acrylic paintings on canvas. Then, it will add three dimensions to the pictures using paintbrushes. It will make 3,000 copies, which will be featured throughout the new Carnival cruise ship under construction in Italy. The 10-year-old shop has earned a national reputation for the quality of its digital prints. It makes prints for more than 500 artists around the world.
- Hayden, a city of 12,000 immediately north of Coeur d'Alene, is ensuring its ability to handle projected growth by doubling the capacity of its 20-year-old sewage facility, which currently can treat up to 1.65 million gallons of wastewater a day. About 70 percent of the wastewater treated by the Hayden facility comes from Hayden residents. The rest comes from the Hayden Lake Water & Sewer District, serving the neighboring city of Hayden Lake and its 550 residents. Kootenai County also pipes wastewater there from the Coeur d'Alene Airport. Hayden will spend about \$9 million to add capacity for up to 3 million gallons a day. Currently, the city is considering seven annexation proposals that together would add more than 1,300 acres and up to 2,200 new homes to its incorporated area.
- Idaho Independent Bank, founded in Coeur d'Alene in 1993, is building its 10th branch. The new branch will be located in downtown Boise. Idaho Independent Bank employs about 80 people at its headquarters and two branches in Kootenai County.
- Coeur d'Alene continues to welcome a variety of new businesses. Sandwedges is a full-menu restaurant that recently opened in the clubhouse of the Coeur d'Alene Municipal Golf Course. Lake City Imports, the city's new auto dealership, sells high-performance luxury vehicles. Edgy clothing for style-minded women and children and an assortment of candles, lotions and other apothecary items are available at Poppy's. Rags Unique Boutique sells clothing, shoes and jewelry for women and girls.
- The Dave Smith auto dealership, Shoshone County's largest employer, recently beefed up its presence in Coeur d'Alene. The company has been operating a car lot in the city. But in recent months it spent more than \$1 million to renovate that lot and add Dave Smith Frontier Sales and Services, offering state-of-the-art repair, accessory installation and detailing services. The new shop employs about 20 people. The dealership also plans to add a truck-bed lining shop in a few months.

## Shoshone County

- The South Fork Coeur d'Alene River Sewer District placed a moratorium on issuing sewer permits on Jan. 17, which could hinder economic development in most of the Silver Valley. The district serves all the communities in the Silver Valley and the heavily populated area along Interstate 90 except for Smelterville, which has its own sewer system. About 5,500 households and businesses are served by the system. The moratorium does not affect Mullan, which is served by the district's treatment plant in Mullan, while the other Silver Valley communities — Kellogg, Wallace, Pinehurst and Osburn — are served by the district's Page treatment plant, which is overloaded. The overload results from major infiltration and inflow problems in Kellogg, Wallace and Osburn, which send through storm water and other water that does not need to be processed through the Page treatment plant. The cities are working hard to reduce the problems because they want the district to keep the variance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that allows it to release processed water that still contains considerable amounts of heavy metals including lead, cadmium and zinc into the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. Without the variance, the district would have to spend millions of dollars to remove the heavy metals, which are the byproduct of 120 years of mining and smelting in the Silver Valley. To keep the variance, the district must show the EPA that it is making continuous improvement on infiltration and inflow problems. The moratorium does not affect projects that already have received permits for sewer access including the Wal-Mart under construction near Smelterville and the Eagle Crest condominiums and water park under construction near the Silver Mountain Resort's gondola in Kellogg. However, it does affect more recently proposed developments including a Holiday Inn Express that was considering locating next to the Wal-Mart store.
- The sewer district recently reached a tentative agreement to give sewer access to two new developments that have agreed to give the city of Kellogg \$1.1 million to fix its infiltration and inflow problems. Creekside Funding has plans for a 930-unit Silver Valley Alpine housing development on the Kellogg hillside below the gondola line. The first phase would be 106 housing units. Larabee Group plans include a 70-unit condominium complex, 117 new homes and 48 bungalows on the hillside. It also may build a Fairfield/Marriott Inn there.

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# North Central Idaho News

CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Lewiston Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March increased to 3.9 percent from February's rate of 3.4 percent, as shown in North Central Idaho Table 1. In March 2005 the rate was 5.2 percent.

## SPECIAL TOPIC: Population

Between 2000 and 2005, the population in north central Idaho decreased, according to recently released data by the U.S. Bureau of Census, while Idaho's population increased by 10.4 percent. Clearwater County lost 6.2 percent of its population in that time. The region's economic engine, Nez Perce County, grew by only 1.4 percent, far below increases generated in other Idaho economic centers such as Canyon County, where population rose 25.2 percent, and Kootenai County, which posted an increase of 17.7 percent. By far, the north central region of the state has not participated in the strong population growth experienced by other regions in the state. See North Central Idaho Tables 2 and 3 on page 12.

## Training Survey for Business

Lewis-Clark State College has developed a survey of employee training needs. This survey may be used to request credit coursework or non-credit training for employees. It may also be used to survey employee interest in specialized training for job advancement. A representative from the college is available to customize the survey to meet specific employer circumstances. For a sample survey or to find out more about this program call (208) 792-2837.

North Central Idaho Table 1: Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	Mar 2006*	Feb 2006	Mar 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,580	28,610	29,580	-0.1	-3.4
Unemployment	1,120	960	1,530	16.7	-26.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.4	5.2		
Total Employment	27,460	27,650	28,050	-0.7	-2.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,850	28,890	29,440	-0.1	-2.0
Unemployment	1,390	1,250	1,300	11.2	6.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.3	4.4		
Total Employment	27,460	27,640	28,140	-0.7	-2.4
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	26,670	26,580	26,900	0.3	-0.9
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,230	4,220	4,440	0.2	-4.7
Natural Resources & Mining	200	220	170	-9.1	17.6
Construction	1,110	1,120	1,360	-0.9	-18.4
Manufacturing	2,920	2,880	2,910	1.4	0.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	540	540	530	0.0	1.9
Food Manufacturing	20	20	60	0.0	-66.7
Paper Manufacturing	1,070	1,080	1,130	-0.9	-5.3
Other Manufacturing	1,290	1,240	1,190	4.0	8.4
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	22,440	22,360	22,460	0.4	-0.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,390	5,360	5,280	0.6	2.1
Wholesale Trade	660	660	680	0.0	-2.9
Retail Trade	3,430	3,400	3,430	0.9	0.0
Utilities	80	80	90	0.0	-11.1
Transportation & Warehousing	1,220	1,220	1,080	0.0	13.0
Information	420	400	390	5.0	7.7
Financial Activities	1,840	1,830	1,890	0.5	-2.6
Professional & Business Services	1,570	1,560	1,650	0.6	-4.8
Education & Health Services	4,510	4,510	4,450	0.0	1.3
Leisure & Hospitality	2,290	2,300	2,430	-0.4	-5.8
Other Services	1,110	1,090	1,140	1.8	-2.6
Government Education	2,500	2,480	2,530	0.8	-1.2
Government Administration	2,110	2,130	1,970	-0.9	7.1
Government Tribes	700	700	730	0.0	-4.1

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Clearwater County

- According to a recently completed feasibility study, expanded marina facilities are indeed a "feasible means to offset a significant part of economic losses created by the annual drawdowns of Dworshak Reservoir." Under consideration are the expansion of the ex-

North Central Idaho Table 2: Cumulative Estimates of Population Change for North Central Idaho and Rankings: April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2005

Geographic Area	Population Estimates		Change, 2000 to 2005		County Rank Change, 2000 to 2005	
	July 1, 2005	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Idaho	1,429,096	1,293,956	135,140	10.4	(X)	(X)
Clearwater	8,373	8,930	-557	-6.2	42	43
Idaho	15,697	15,511	186	1.2	26	31
Latah	34,714	34,935	-221	-0.6	38	35
Lewis	3,750	3,747	3	0.1	33	33
Nez Perce	37,931	37,410	521	1.4	20	28
North Central Idaho	100,465	100,533	-68			

isting small boat marina at Big Eddy and the establishment of a houseboat marina that would include rentals at Bruces Eddy. Within seven years, consultants estimate the projects have the potential to create over 40 jobs and add up to \$3.5 million to the local economy. The Big Eddy small boat marina is currently full and maintains a waiting list for boat slips. The consultants believe that an additional 50 slips at Big Eddy could be easily filled. As to the possibility of a large houseboat marina at Bruces Eddy, the report states that an analysis of potential markets and activity on similar lakes indicates Dworshak could support a fleet of up to 100 houseboats. The consultants believe that the unique characteristics of Dworshak that include access to undeveloped areas, wildlife viewing and hunting and fishing opportunities can be capitalized on to create new demand for these facilities on the reservoir.

#### Latah County

- More than 2,000 active University of Idaho employees will be getting new medical benefits packages this summer. The changes constitute an effort to avoid a \$1.6 million increase in the cost of providing medical benefits to employees. Paul Michaud, assistant vice president of human resources, said medical benefits cost the university \$23.3 million last year. "Had no changes been made, plan costs would have been \$24.9 million," according to a prepared statement provided by Michaud. "This would have resulted in an employee cost increase of \$23 on average per pay period." The university, the county's largest employer, decided to follow the recommendation of its benefits advisory group instead. The group recommended that employees be given four options,

North Central Idaho Table 3: Cumulative Estimates of Natural Increase Population Change April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2005

Geographic Area	Natural Increase		
	Total	Births	Deaths
Clearwater County	-83	393	476
Idaho County	-17	795	812
Latah County	1,027	2,168	1,141
Lewis County	10	224	214
Nez Perce County	131	2,357	2,226

including no coverage at all. The other three plans have different coverage provisions and different rates that will be deducted from employee paychecks. Michaud joked that employees should select "Plan A if you plan to be healthy, Plan B if you plan to be sick and Plan C if you plan to pay a lot." The differences between the plans are found in such areas as premiums, deductibles and co-pays.

- Pullman, Wash., is a contender for a major expansion of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories that could bring 300 more jobs to the city. President Edmund O. Schweitzer III has announced the company's manufacturing operations in Pullman are nearing their capacity. He wants to build a 100,000-square-foot manufacturing building within the next 18 months. Schweitzer founded the company in Pullman in 1982 to market an electrical relay he invented. The company designs, manufactures, sells and distributes products for the protection, automation, control and metering of electric power systems. It has grown to include more than 1,200 employees and 50 locations worldwide. Schweitzer's work force expanded by 210 world-

wide in 2005, including 137 jobs in Pullman. Schweitzer announced plans in February to bring 168 jobs to Pullman this year. Pullman is the likely site for an expansion, Schweitzer said, although he is considering locating the manufacturing facility in a state with a "less restrictive business climate." Possible alternatives include Idaho, Texas, Tennessee, Florida and Wisconsin. Schweitzer thinks "anti-opportunity laws and attitudes" in Washington and Whitman County impede growth, including the estate tax and restrictive zoning laws. Schweitzer is a vocal opponent of the estate tax and has lobbied Washington state and the U.S. Congress to do away with the tax he fears will destroy family owned businesses. About 300 of the 900 Schweitzer employees working in Pullman live in Idaho.

#### Nez Perce County

- Farmers in north central Idaho report conditions for growing wheat appear good this year with abundant rain, but they are concerned about rising energy costs. As a group, wheat growers and other commodity organizations have asked Congress to open known reserves of natural gas to supplement the current supply. They are also asking for emergency funding to cover some of the expense related to rising energy costs. Roy Patton, supervisor of the University of Idaho Parker Experiment Station near Moscow, said precipitation was 225 percent of normal in January and 116 percent of normal in February. He said March was slightly below normal and April was a little ahead of the average. "The winter wheat looks pretty decent — the stuff that can hold its breath or can tread water," Patton said. "The thing is it's not always exactly how much precipitation we get. It's kind of a timing thing."

- Potlatch Corp.'s timberlands will play an important role as the company settles into its new structure as a real estate investment trust. Sales of standing timber to other businesses and land leases for hunting or recreation are among the key areas that will drive Potlatch's businesses. Since Potlatch's conversion to a trust on Jan. 1, those transactions have not been subject to federal income taxes. Potlatch's manufacturing operations, which are still taxed, will support this new role. "We will continue to invest in the maintenance of our manufacturing businesses that are performing well," said Michael Covey, Potlatch's new president and chief executive officer. According to Covey, Potlatch's Lewiston manufacturing operations is expected to be business as usual. The complexion of the 667,000 acres Potlatch owns in Idaho's backcountry will continue to change as part of an ongoing Potlatch initiative. Potlatch plans to increase timber harvesting in Idaho by 25 percent in the next five years as long as log prices remain good. William DeReu will be vice president of land sales and development, a newly created business segment. DeReu was director of land asset management for Plum Creek Timber Inc. In that position, he marketed and developed land for uses other than timber production. He also negotiated conservation sales and easements. Some Potlatch property in Idaho and Minnesota might be sold for cabin sites, Covey said.

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## SEASONAL FARM UPDATES AVAILABLE ONLINE

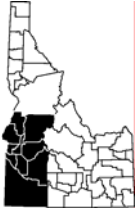
The first 2006 issue of Idaho Farm Update was published May 5. This one-page flyer provides bi-weekly updates on Idaho's agricultural conditions, labor demands and wages from May to September. To see an issue, type the following address in your Web browser:

[http://lmi.idaho.gov/admin/  
uploadedPublications/3723\\_farmlaborenglish.pdf](http://lmi.idaho.gov/admin/uploadedPublications/3723_farmlaborenglish.pdf).

To view the publication in Spanish, type the following address in your Web browser:

[http://lmi.idaho.gov/admin/uploadedPublications/3722\\_farmlaborspanish.pdf](http://lmi.idaho.gov/admin/uploadedPublications/3722_farmlaborspanish.pdf).





# Southwestern Idaho News

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area for March was 2.9 percent, unchanged from February. March's rate was nearly a full percentage point below March 2005's rate of 3.8 percent. The civilian labor force actually declined slightly in March, falling by 1,300 people, while total employment dropped by 1,200 as some seasonal holiday workers were released later than normal. There was also some initial indication that people were leaving the labor force because they were unable to find good paying jobs that matched their skills. Still, March's labor force and total employment were significantly higher than a year earlier.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in the Boise area continued an annual increase, gaining 3,000 from February. Twenty-three percent of the jobs were in construction. The metropolitan area's nonfarm jobs total of 263,100 was more than 14,000 above March 2005, an annual gain of 5.7 percent. Construction should continue to lead the way throughout the summer in job

**Southwestern Idaho Table 2: March 2006  
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwestern Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unemployed	Percent Unemployed	Number Employed
Ada	193,053	5,205	2.7	187,848
Adams	2,003	127	6.3	1,876
Boise	3,493	133	3.8	3,360
Canyon	80,456	2,694	3.3	77,762
Elmore	11,000	460	4.2	10,540
Gem	7,784	309	4.0	7,475
Owyhee	5,173	112	2.2	5,061
Payette	10,723	556	5.2	10,167
Valley	5,048	189	3.7	4,858
Washington	5,182	218	4.2	4,964
Statewide	758,185	24,502	3.2	733,683

**Southwestern Idaho Table 1: Boise City-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment (Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties)**

	Mar 2006*	Feb 2006	Mar 2005	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	290,000	291,300	279,500	-0.4	3.8
Unemployment	8,500	8,600	10,700	-1.2	-20.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	2.9	3.8		
Total Employment	281,500	282,700	268,800	-0.4	4.7
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	291,100	292,400	280,600	-0.4	3.7
Unemployment	9,500	10,200	11,900	-6.9	-20.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3	3	4		
Total Employment	281,600	282,200	268,700	-0.2	4.8
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>					
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	263,100	260,100	249,000	1.2	5.7
Natural Resources & Construction	51,100	50,300	48,500	1.6	5.4
Construction	21,100	20,500	18,500	2.9	14.1
Manufacturing	20,800	20,100	18,200	3.5	14.3
Durable Goods	30,000	29,800	30,000	0.7	0.0
Wood Product Manufacturing	23,900	23,700	23,500	0.8	1.7
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	2,200	2,200	2,100	0.0	4.8
Machinery Manufacturing	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,300	0.0	-7.7
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	14,000	13,800	14,400	1.4	-2.8
Other Durable Goods	2,200	2,100	2,000	4.8	10.0
Nondurable Goods	2,900	3,000	2,300	-3.3	26.1
Food Manufacturing	6,100	6,100	6,500	0.0	-6.2
Printing & Related Support Activities	4,200	4,300	4,700	-2.3	-10.6
Other Nondurable Goods	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	1,200	1,100	1,100	9.1	9.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	212,000	209,800	200,500	1.0	5.7
Trade	51,300	50,600	46,800	1.4	9.6
Wholesale Trade	43,900	43,400	40,000	1.2	9.8
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,000	11,900	11,200	0.8	7.1
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	7,200	7,300	6,800	-1.4	5.9
Retail Trade	3,500	3,500	3,500	0.0	0.0
Food & Beverage Stores	31,900	31,500	28,800	1.3	10.8
General Merchandise Stores	4,300	4,400	4,100	-2.3	4.9
All Other Retail Trade	6,400	6,300	5,900	1.6	8.5
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	21,200	20,800	18,800	1.9	12.8
Utilities	7,400	7,200	6,800	2.8	8.8
Transportation & Warehousing	600	500	600	20.0	0.0
Information	6,800	6,700	6,200	1.5	9.7
Telecommunications	5,200	5,100	5,000	2.0	4.0
Financial Activities	2,400	2,400	2,100	0.0	14.3
Finance & Insurance	14,400	14,400	14,400	0.0	0.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	10,100	10,100	10,100	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	4,300	4,300	4,300	0.0	0.0
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	37,600	37,000	36,100	1.6	4.2
Management of Companies & Ent.	11,200	11,300	10,800	-0.9	3.7
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	5,800	5,800	5,700	0.0	1.8
Educational & Health Services	20,600	19,900	19,600	3.5	5.1
Educational Services	32,000	31,900	30,900	0.3	3.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	3,100	3,000	3,000	3.3	3.3
Hospitals	28,900	28,900	27,900	0.0	3.6
Leisure & Hospitality	9,400	9,300	9,200	1.1	2.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	22,700	22,300	21,800	1.8	4.1
Accommodation & Food Services	3,300	3,100	2,800	6.5	17.9
Accommodation	19,400	19,200	19,000	1.0	2.1
Food Services & Drinking Places	2,000	2,100	2,100	-4.8	-4.8
Other Services	17,400	17,100	16,900	1.8	3.0
Total Government	7,300	7,200	6,000	1.4	21.7
Federal Government	41,500	41,300	39,500	0.5	5.1
State & Local Government	5,500	5,400	5,600	1.9	-1.8
State Government	36,000	35,900	33,900	0.3	6.2
State Government Education	13,700	13,700	13,400	0.0	2.2
State Government Administration	4,900	4,900	4,700	0.0	4.3
Local Government	8,800	8,800	8,700	0.0	1.1
Local Government Education	22,300	22,200	20,500	0.5	8.8
Local Government Administration	14,100	14,100	12,700	0.0	11.0
	8,200	8,100	7,800	1.2	5.1

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month



creation since the residential building boom is still in full swing and a large slate of commercial projects are either under way or will be shortly. Administrative, support and waste management services accounted for 23 percent of March's job increase as placement and temporary agencies experienced a surge in business with the busy spring and summer seasons at hand. The March civilian labor force and total employment figures for all 10 counties in southwestern Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2 on page 14.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Boise Metropolitan Area

- Swift and Co. recently announced the sale of its closed Nampa slaughterhouse to Canadian firm XL Foods of Alberta. Hopes are high that XL Foods will reopen the facility and re-employ many of the workers who were displaced when Swift closed its operations last summer.
- Kuna is set to be the new home of equine leather products manufacturer Buckaroo Leather Products. Buckaroo Leather makes saddles, bits, spurs and a variety of other products with sales of nearly \$1 million annually. Buckaroo's new 6,000-square-foot facility is scheduled to open in about 10 months at the corner of Stagecoach and Short Line Roads.
- Meridian manufacturer Michael's of Oregon will be closing its doors by the end of 2006 at the expense of 200 local jobs. Kansas-based Bushnell Outdoor Products, the parent company of Michael's of Oregon, made the announcement that these jobs will be outsourced to other parts of the United States and abroad. The Meridian facility made Uncle Mike's holsters and Hoppes gun cleaning products among other lines of supplies and equipment. Bushnell purchased Michael's of Oregon in August 2005 and cited foreign competition as the reason for the shutdown.
- Despite rising interest rates, home sales in the Treasure Valley increased substantially in the first quarter of 2006 over the same period a year ago. Ada County experienced a 36.5 percent increase in the number of homes sold while Canyon County home sales increased by 42.6 percent. In addition to the large increases in the number of homes sold, the median values of these homes also increased quite dramatically. The median price of all homes sold in Ada County during the first quarter of 2006 was \$221,740, up from \$173,300 in first quarter 2005 for an increase of 27.9 percent. In Canyon County, the median price rose to \$149,000 from \$111,800 in first quarter 2005, an increase of 33.3 percent. There are really two main reasons for the escalation – first there is a tremendous number of people moving into southwestern Idaho from other areas with much higher housing prices, and second, investors are buying up homes in the valley because they are inexpensive compared to other communities in the West.
- During the first half of the Small Business Administration's fiscal year, both the number and the dollar volume of loans processed in the Boise District increased, mostly due to business owners financing the buildings they are operating in. From October 2005 through March 2006, the Boise District approved 452 loans at a value near \$100 million, which was up from 449 loans valued at \$88 million a year earlier. Institutions making the most loans are US Bank with 65, Zions Bank with 61 and D.L. Evans Bank with 40. In terms of dollars loaned, the top three banks were D.L. Evans Bank, which loaned out \$12 million; Zions Bank, which loaned \$10 million; and Farmers and Merchants State Bank, which made loans totaling \$7.5 million.
- Merrill's Egg Farm in Emmett has closed its doors after many years of doing business in Gem County. Eggs shipments ceased the first part of April, and the entire company shutdown at the end of the month.
- Zamzows recently announced it will build two new stores in southwestern Idaho. One will replace the current store in Nampa, and the other will be at a new location in Meridian. Zamzows sells garden and pet supplies among many other products and manufactures its own brand of pet foods and other products at a facility located in Meridian.
- The city of Meridian's tremendous population growth means it will get a second ZIP code, effective July 1. The new ZIP code affects northern Meridian's mostly residential areas. Most of Meridian's businesses will be unaffected by the change.
- Staffing agency Spherion Corp., the sixth largest staffing agency in the country, is currently looking for a franchise owner to open a branch in southwestern Idaho. Spherion focuses mostly on high-tech, accounting, legal, human resources, clerical and industrial workers.
- The valley's two largest hospitals, St. Luke's and St. Alphonsus, are both expanding to Eagle. St. Alphonsus plans to open a \$17 million, 74,000-square-foot facility this fall while St. Luke's will build a \$10 million, 60,000-square-foot facility to open in the fall of 2007. Both will offer outpatient care only and will be available for people to walk in without an appointment.
- According to the Wells Fargo Boise area cost of living report, inflation during March was 0.1 percent,

down from the 0.5 percent increase in February. Transportation costs increased by 2.4 percent during March but other expenses such as groceries dropped to temper fuel costs. Due to the recent run up in the cost of gas and diesel, the April cost of living report will likely show a more significant increase in the area's inflation rate.

- Another national retailer will be opening a store in the BoDo development in downtown Boise. White House Black Market, a retailer of women's clothing that sells only black and white items, plans to open a 3,500-square-foot store in the Sycamore building in October.
- Les Bois Park is once again operating live horse racing. Ada County signed a five-year contract with new tenant Capitol Racing to operate the park and a 46-day racing season. In addition to live racing, simulcast racing will be offered and will be available to racing fans all year. Ada County has made some improvements to Les Bois since it was last open. The turf has been improved in the track infield, much of the structures have been painted, updated wiring was installed and the facility has been made friendlier to patrons with disabilities.

#### Valley County

- Tamarack recently held its sixth property sale netting \$42.7 million for continued construction of the resort. Fifty-three properties sold at prices ranging from \$599,000 up to \$1,099,000. Nineteen of the properties were home-building lots, and 34 were for cottages and town-homes. The top three states with the most buyers were Idaho, California and Texas. France and Mexico led the way in foreign buyers.
- Tamarack also has a busy summer construction season planned. Some of the projects include the Village Plaza of 129 condominiums and 20 commercial spaces, expansion of the ski and mountain bike trails and a restaurant on the mountain. Perhaps the most publicized project is construction of housing for resort employees.

#### Elmore County

- Two new businesses recently opened their doors in Mountain Home. Mexi-Go, a drive through restaurant is part of a chain with locations all over the Pacific Northwest. Affordably Priced Cars and its limousine rental service also opened, hoping to fill a need for cars that are more economically priced than new vehicles currently being sold in Mountain Home.

#### Washington County

- Washington County recently joined the rest of southwestern Idaho in the phenomenon of escalating housing prices. The Washington County Assessors Office reported rising home sales prices are pushing assessed values of single family homes up 20 percent to 30 percent.

#### Adams County

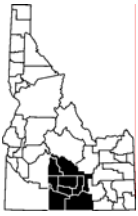
- Brundage Mountain Ski Resort recently announced that the J.R. Simplot Co. has sold its 50 percent ownership in the resort to long-time co-owner, the DeBoer family. Brown's Industries Inc. and Snowy Peaks LLC bought Simplot's share; both entities are owned by Judd and Diane DeBoer and their family. Simplot President Larry Hlobik said the company realizes the recreational potential of Brundage but has opted to focus on its staple businesses of fertilizers and food. Brundage Mountain Resort's first priority will be to expand new runs and lifts that were started several years ago. Brundage has experienced one of the best snow seasons on record with over 400 inches of cumulative snowfall and 147 days of skiing. A summer resort as well, Brundage has plans for a season of chair-lift mountain biking and scenic lift rides along with weddings and concerts at the resort's facilities.

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#### WEB SITE PACKED WITH LABOR MARKET RESOURCES

Idaho's Labor Market Information Web site — <http://lmi.idaho.gov/> — is a key source for economic information about Idaho and how it compares to the U.S. on a variety of topics. The Web site has proven essential to businesses, students, job seekers, economic analysts and others. Find out for yourself.





# South Central Idaho News

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Twin Falls-Jerome Micropolitan Statistical Area continues to experience strong economic growth. Although the national economy has improved considerably since March 2005, the kind of growth experienced in the Twin Falls-Jerome area would be the envy of most communities. Non-farm payroll jobs across the United States grew 1.6 percent between March 2005 and this March, but the area's nonfarm payroll jobs grew 7.1 percent. While the U.S. lost manufacturing jobs, southern Idaho's manufacturing jobs grew 4.2 percent. The area's new manufacturing jobs also further diversified its economy and made it less vulnerable to the ups and downs of individual industries. While the U.S. was happy with a 0.9 percent increase in retail jobs, the Twin Falls-Jerome area enjoyed an 8.6 percent increase. The area's rapid retail growth is a result of the strong population and income growth it has experienced.

Construction is growing at an especially breath-taking pace. Work recently began on a new temple for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the widening of the Pole Line Road commercial corridor. There is also a high level of new housing starts. Employment with construction firms this March was 30.2 percent ahead of the same month last year. The much-bannered growth in U.S. construction jobs at 4.5 percent pales in comparison. In addition, many construction laborers are employed through temporary agencies, and their employment shows up in professional and business services in Table 1. The increased employment of construction laborers through temporary agencies

South Central Idaho Table 1: Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment—Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	Mar 2006*	Feb 2006	Mar 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	54,240	55,420	47,010	-2.1	15.4
Unemployment	1,580	1,590	1,880	-0.6	-16.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	2.9	4.0		
Total Employment	52,660	53,830	45,130	-2.2	16.7
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	53,560	54,570	46,460	-1.9	15.3
Unemployment	1,810	1,970	2,140	-8.1	-15.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.6	4.6		
Total Employment	51,752	52,600	44,320	-1.6	16.8
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	39,600	39,130	36,990	1.2	7.1
<b>Goods-Providing Industries</b>	6,880	6,890	6,160	-0.1	11.7
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	40	0.0	-25.0
Construction	2,370	2,370	1,820	0.0	30.2
Manufacturing	4,480	4,490	4,300	-0.2	4.2
Food Manufacturing	2,520	2,540	2,540	-0.8	-0.8
Other Manufacturing	1,960	1,950	1,760	0.5	11.4
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	32,720	32,240	30,830	1.5	6.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,080	9,890	9,140	1.9	10.3
Wholesale Trade	1,860	1,850	1,740	0.5	6.9
Retail Trade	5,810	5,670	5,350	2.5	8.6
Utilities	160	150	150	6.7	6.7
Transportation & Warehousing	2,250	2,220	1,900	1.4	18.4
Information	610	600	580	1.7	5.2
Financial Activities	1,830	1,800	1,710	1.7	7.0
Professional & Business Services	5,110	4,990	4,840	2.4	5.6
Educational & Health Services	3,450	3,380	3,190	2.1	8.2
Leisure & Hospitality	3,000	3,000	2,890	0.0	3.8
Other Services	1,370	1,340	1,360	2.2	0.7
Government Education	3,410	3,390	3,350	0.6	1.8
Government Administration	3,860	3,850	3,770	0.3	2.4

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

South Central Idaho Table 2: Employed Residents (*Seasonally Adjusted*)

County/Area	March 2006	March 2005	% Change
Blaine County	14,115	13,737	2.7
Camas County	600	585	2.7
Cassia County	10,122	9,319	8.6
Gooding County	8,585	8,008	7.2
Lincoln Count	2,524	2,436	3.6
Minidoka County	9,498	8,746	8.6
State of Idaho	733,683	703,451	4.3
United States (millions)	143	141	1.9

South Central Idaho Table 3: Changes in Personal and Per Capita Income, 2002 to 2003 Compared to 2003 to 2004						
Geographic Area	Population % Change		Personal Income % Change		Per Capita Income % Change	
	2003-2004	2002-2003	2003-2004	2002-2003	2003-2004	2002-2003
Idaho	2.0	1.8	8.2	2.4	6.1	0.6
Urban Counties	2.7	2.4	8.0	2.9	5.2	0.7
Rural Counties	0.8	0.9	8.6	1.2	7.7	0.2
Blaine County	1.6	2.0	7.0	3.3	5.4	1.3
Camas County	-2.0	-0.3	4.2	-4.0	9.9	-3.9
Cassia County	-0.7	-0.1	6.4	0.0	7.2	0.0
Gooding County	0.5	0.7	19.2	1.4	18.9	0.5
Jerome County	2.0	1.3	16.2	2.5	13.9	1.2
Lincoln County	0.4	1.6	12.8	-1.1	12.6	-2.2
Minidoka County	-0.7	-0.5	8.1	-7.8	8.8	-7.1
Twin Falls County	1.5	2.4	7.1	1.2	5.5	-1.2
Region	0.9	1.4	9.2	0.8	9.9	-1.0
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis						

South Central Idaho Table 4: South Central Idaho Population, Income Figures, 2004				
Area	Population	Personal Income (in millions)	Per Capita Income	Per Capita Rank Statewide
Idaho	1,395,140	37,497	26,877	-
Urban Counties	848,632	25,386	28,417	-
Rural Counties	546,508	12,111	24,135	-
Blaine	21,024	959	45,635	1
Camas	1,014	25	25,090	12
Cassia	21,381	529	24,733	13
Gooding	14,398	447	31,070	3
Jerome	19,304	532	27,538	6
Lincoln	4,318	97	22,550	25
Minidoka	19,189	373	19,441	41
Twin Falls	68,083	1,717	25,217	11
Region	168,711	4,679	27,659	-
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis				

is one reason for the 270 jobs added in the professional and business services industry.

South Central Idaho Table 2 on page 17 demonstrates that the other counties in the region also have experienced strong employment growth.

#### SPECIAL TOPIC: Regional Income

South central Idaho rebounded strongly from the effects of the national recession in 2002 and 2003, posting dramatic gains in income during 2004 that indicated a real increase in buying power.

While population growth in all but Jerome County fell well below the statewide growth rate of 2 percent

between 2003 and 2004, gains in both personal and per capital income in the eight-county region were markedly above income growth rates statewide, as shown in the South Central Idaho Table 3.

The region's population grew by less than half the 2 percent statewide rate and even more slowly than it did from 2002 to 2003 as the state was trying to free itself from the slowdown. But personal income — the total of all individual wages, business profits, investment earnings and transfer payments such as Social Security — jumped by more than 9 percent. That was more than 10 times the personal income growth of the year before.

As for per capita income — personal income equally spread among every man, woman and child in the region — the growth rate was nearly 10 percent. In 2003, per capita income actually fell by a percentage point. Five of the seven rural counties in the region all improved their ranking statewide from 2003. Blaine County with the highest per capita income and Gooding County with the third highest held their own from 2003. Only the largest of the counties, Twin Falls, slipped from 2003 but fell only one place to 11<sup>th</sup> overall. South Central Idaho Table 4 on page 18 provides specific figures.

The region's income rose 10 times faster than its population in 2004, meaning more money went into the pockets of the workers in those counties. The growth was more than three times higher than the inflation rate that year, increasing paychecks faster than basic living expenses.

And the outlook for further improvements appears good since the region's unemployment rate has plunged nearly a full percentage point in the last year to 3.1 percent in March, below the state's record low rate of 3.2 percent.

## LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

### Cassia County

- Burley has gotten a huge boost in its recovery from the 2002 closure of the Simplot processing plant with the decision by Dutchmen Manufacturing Inc. of Indiana to open a recreational vehicle manufacturing plant. The 80,000 square-foot plant should be operating by year's end, initially employing 80 people with plans to expand to 200 within two years. The initial payroll is estimated at nearly \$1.5 million a year.

### Jerome County

- Hundreds of people turned out in April for the Grower Appreciation Day at Standlee Hay in Eden, one of the area's largest employers. The company has been campaigning for improvements in rail service and has been a major supporter of efforts to improve intermodal transportation facilities to better accommodate its shipping needs to the coast and its export markets.

### Blaine County

- Ski equipment maker Scott USA, which is building a new 85,000-square-foot plant in Ketchum, made quite a showing during the Winter Olympics in Italy. Alpine skiers wearing Scott goggles took two gold medals, three silvers and a bronze while snowboard cross competitors claimed a gold and a silver.

- Progressive Farmer magazine has cited Blaine County as one of the 10 best places to live in rural America. In ranking the county ninth on its list, the magazine called it "a place where wealth meets wilderness, resort living meets ranching and French restaurants meet feed stores."

### Twin Falls

- The city of Castleford has finally put together a financing plan for improvements to its water system to meet federal arsenic removal standards. The city has qualified for a \$500,000 hardship loan from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to complete the \$1.6 million financing package for the system upgrade. After obtaining a \$1 million federal grant and approving a \$106,000 bond issue, the water system users — only 120 — still needed the additional loan to get the project going. Half the loan will be forgiven and the other half repaid over 30 years at no interest. The project will more than double city water bills to \$57.54 a month.
- The Southern Idaho Potato Cooperative has negotiated a 2006 contract with ConAgra and Heinz. Details of the agreement were not disclosed, but cooperative director Dan Hargraves called it a bare-bones deal that will still leave growers struggling to break even this year.
- Glanbia Foods claimed five medals for its cheeses at this year's Wisconsin World Cheese Championships. The Twin Falls company won gold for its mild cheddar, Monterey Jack and pepper-flavored cheeses and a silver and a bronze for its marbled curd cheeses.

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# Southeastern Idaho News

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA & POWER COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

April showers came early to the area in the form of snow and rain in March. The cold, wet weather delayed spring farming, gardening and landscaping activity. As a result, the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point in March to 3.6 percent. The area's unemployment rate remains significantly lower than one year earlier when the rate was 4.2 percent.

Over the year, the area's labor force increased by more than 200 to 44,680. The number of workers with jobs rose more than 2,000 while the number of people unemployed decreased by nearly 300.

Job creation throughout the greater eastern Idaho area along with commuting between the communities in eastern Idaho has improved employment opportunities for southeastern Idaho workers.

Total nonfarm payroll jobs increased by 280 in March. Job activity was strong in both the goods-producing and service sectors.

### SPECIAL TOPIC: Southeastern Idaho 2004 Personal and Per Capita Income

Income in southeastern Idaho's seven counties grew faster than the national rate from 2003 to 2004. Each of the seven counties saw personal income rise by more than the 6 percent posted nationally, and per capita income also grew at a faster rate than the national average of 5 percent.

Four out of the seven counties also experienced higher personal income growth than the state overall between 2003 and 2004. Bingham, Caribou, Franklin and Power counties had personal income increases above the 8.2 percent state average. Personal income in Bannock, Bear Lake and Oneida counties grew at a slower rate but still exceeded 6 percent. Per capita income also grew faster than the state's rate of 6.1

Southeastern Idaho Table 1: Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment Bannock and Power counties

	Mar 2006*	Feb 2006	Mar 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,660	44,860	44,440	-0.4	0.5
Unemployment	1,600	1,590	1,890	0.6	-15.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.5	4.2		
Total Employment	44,660	43,270	42,550	3.2	5.0
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	45,520	45,880	45,310	-0.8	0.5
Unemployment	1,880	1,980	2,210	-5.1	-14.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.3	4.9		
Total Employment	43,640	43,900	43,100	-0.6	1.3
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	39,270	38,990	38,230	0.7	2.7
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	5510	5390	5320	2.2	3.6
Natural Resources & Mining	20	20	20	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,170	2,100	1,940	3.3	11.9
Manufacturing	3,320	3,270	3,360	1.5	-1.2
Food Manufacturing	940	950	950	-1.1	-1.1
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	150	140	150	7.1	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	80	80	80	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	2,150	2,100	2,120	2.4	1.4
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	33,760	33,600	32,910	0.5	2.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,320	7,290	7,040	0.4	4.0
Wholesale Trade	1,380	1,360	1,300	1.5	6.2
Retail Trade	4,510	4,510	4,270	0.0	5.6
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,380	1,370	1,420	0.7	-2.8
Information	760	760	730	0.0	4.1
Financial Activities	2,130	2,130	2,070	0.0	2.9
Professional & Business Services	5,000	4,960	4,680	0.8	6.8
Educational & Health Services	3,450	3,440	3,230	0.3	6.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,310	3,240	3,430	2.2	-3.5
Other Services	1,210	1,210	1,200	0.0	0.8
Government Education	6,150	6,140	6,190	0.2	-0.6
Government Administration	4,430	4,430	4,340	0.0	2.1

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

percent in six out of seven counties. Only Bannock County fell below the state's growth rate but still increased 5.3 percent.

The increase in both personal and per capita income was fueled by a combination of factors. Strong construction activity, business expansions, the recovery of the agricultural sector after several years of drought and the revitalization of the businesses that support agriculture all contributed to increased employment and wages. Also improvements in the stock market contributed to higher investment income.

Personal income is the total income of all residents from all sources. It includes wages, investment earning, earning on rentals, and govern-



ment payments such as Social Security, disability and Medicaid payments. Per capita income is the total personal income of an area divided by total population. It is the average amount of income per person, including children.

**Southeastern Idaho Table 2: Personal Income and percent change from 2003 - 2004**

County/Area	Personal Income 2004	% change 2003 - 2004
Bannock	\$1,868,000,000	6.4
Bear Lake	\$129,000,000	6.1
Bingham	\$928,000,000	10.2
Caribou	\$175,000,000	9.8
Franklin	\$258,000,000	13.2
Oneida	\$75,000,000	6.9
Power	\$162,000,000	18.2
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>\$37,497,000,000</b>	<b>8.2</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>\$9,705,504,000,000</b>	<b>6.0</b>

**Southeastern Idaho Table 3: Per capita Income and percent change from 2003 - 2004**

County/Area	Per Capita Income 2004	% Change 2003 - 2004	State Rank
Bannock	\$23,971	5.3	19
Bear Lake	\$20,579	7.2	38
Bingham	\$21,485	9.6	30
Caribou	\$24,250	9.4	17
Franklin	\$21,235	10.5	32
Oneida	\$18,168	6.4	43
Power	\$21,027	15.0	36
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>\$26,877</b>	<b>6.1</b>	
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>\$33,050</b>	<b>5.0</b>	

#### Bannock County

- Personal income in Bannock County grew 6.4 percent in 2004 from 2003, which exceeded the 2 percent growth rate from 2002 to 2003. It was the same for per capita income. The 5.3 percent growth rate in 2004 dwarfed 2003's 1.7 percent rate. In 2004, Bannock County fell to 19th among Idaho's 44 counties in per capita income. It was 12<sup>th</sup> in 2003.

#### Bear Lake County

- Bear Lake's personal income grew 6.1 percent in 2004, exceeding the 3.4 percent growth rate for 2003. Per capita income also increased at a higher rate in 2004 than in 2003, growing 7.2 percent after posting just 3.1 percent growth in 2003. The county ranked 38th in per capita income, down from 37<sup>th</sup> in 2003.

#### Bingham County

- Personal income grew an impressive 10.2 percent in 2004. In 2003, the county's personal income fell 1.9 percent. Per capita income grew 9.6 percent in 2004

after decreasing 3.2 percent in 2003. The county ranked 30th in per capita income, the same as in 2003.

#### Caribou County

- Caribou County's personal income grew 9.8 percent in 2004 compared to growth of just 0.6 percent the year before. Per capita income increased 9.4 percent in 2004, which significantly exceeded the 2003 growth rate of 0.9 percent. The county ranked 17<sup>th</sup>, down from 16<sup>th</sup> in 2003.

#### Franklin County

- Franklin County experienced the second highest growth rate in personal income in southeastern Idaho. Personal income increased 13.2 percent in 2004. A year earlier, it grew 4.6 percent. Per capita income grew 10.5 percent compared to 4.2 percent in 2003. The county ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> in per capita income, an impressive improvement from 2003 when it ranked 39<sup>th</sup>.

#### Oneida County

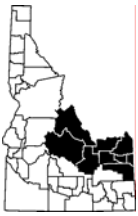
- Personal income in Oneida County grew 6.9 percent in 2004, more than double the 2.9 percent growth rate a year earlier. Per capita income grew 6.4 percent in 2004, exceeding the 2003 growth rate of 3.9 percent. The county ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in per capita income, the same as in 2003.

#### Power County

- Power County experienced the highest rate of growth in personal income in 2004 of all the counties in southeastern Idaho. Personal income grew 18.2 percent, a significant change from 2003 when it fell 8.7 percent. Per capita income followed the personal income trend with the region's highest rate of growth at 15 percent. Per capita income had fallen 8.1 percent in 2003. Power County ranked 36th in per capita income, the same as in 2003.

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# East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

East central Idaho counties ranged in unemployment rates from 1.7 percent in Teton County to 5.2 percent in Lemhi County for March. The overall labor force edged up to over 99,000 people. Just over 2,710 were unemployed. The Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area remained unchanged at 2.6 percent from the previous month but decreased seven-tenths of a percentage point from the same time last year as only 3,360 more people joined the labor force but 3,670 more workers found jobs during the 12-month period. East Central Idaho Table 1 provides specifics. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the metropolitan area, posted an unemployment rate of 3.1 percent and a labor force of almost 32,000.

## SPECIAL TOPIC: New Statistics and Ratings

The Idaho Falls metropolitan area ranked number 10 in job growth out of 393 areas nationwide, according to a survey conducted by Professor Michael Shires of Pepperdine University and published in the May 2006 edition of Inc. magazine under the title "Boomtowns '06." Employment growth was compared over one year, three years and 10 years for each area. "The Small Business Administration estimates that small companies generate as many as three-quarters of the nation's new jobs; as a result, a region showing strong job creation is likely to be a hotbed of entrepreneurial activity," the magazine said. "What's more, strong job growth suggests that a region's economy is expanding. That means new demand and new opportunities."

All 393 metropolitan areas were categorized into three sections based on employment. Idaho Falls fell into the small cities list with employment under

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Mar 2006*	Feb 2006	Mar 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	63,260	63,590	59,900	-0.5	5.6
Unemployment	1,660	1,670	1,970	-0.6	-15.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.6	2.6	3.3		
Total Employment	61,600	61,920	57,930	-0.5	6.3
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	61,790	62,340	58,540	-0.9	5.6
Unemployment	1,980	2,160	2,350	-8.3	-15.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.5	4.0		
Total Employment	59,800	60,170	56,190	-0.6	6.4
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	53,410	52,980	46,430	0.8	15.0
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	7,070	6,900	6,280	2.5	12.6
Natural Resources & Mining	50	40	40	25.0	25.0
Construction	3,770	3,650	3,150	3.3	19.7
Manufacturing	3,250	3,210	3,090	1.2	5.2
Food Manufacturing	1,040	1,040	1,020	0.0	2.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	220	220	200	0.0	10.0
Machinery Manufacturing	160	150	160	6.7	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,830	1,800	1,710	1.7	7.0
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	46,340	46,080	40,150	0.6	15.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,260	13,220	12,730	0.3	4.2
Wholesale Trade	4,200	4,190	3,960	0.2	6.1
Retail Trade	7,450	7,410	7,280	0.5	2.3
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,560	1,570	1,440	-0.6	8.3
Information	1,160	1,150	1,120	0.9	3.6
Financial Activities	2,110	2,090	1,970	1.0	7.1
Professional & Business Services	9,840	9,710	5,200	1.3	89.2
Educational & Health Services	6,910	6,870	6,390	0.6	8.1
Leisure & Hospitality	4,310	4,280	4,060	0.7	6.2
Other Services	1,990	2,010	1,940	-1.0	2.6
Government Education	3,840	3,840	3,530	0.0	8.8
Government Administration	2,920	2,910	3,210	0.3	-9.0

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

150,000. In that list, it ranked eighth. Coeur d'Alene was the only Idaho city to rank higher at fifth overall and fourth among the small cities.

The Idaho Falls area also had a personal income growth rate of 8.3 percent from 2003 to 2004, according to new data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Coeur d'Alene was the only Idaho metropolitan area to top that. The Boise-Nampa and Pocatello areas came in just under Idaho Falls, but all four were above the national average. Personal income includes all sources of income from all residents.

Population growth has been a major variable. The Idaho Falls metropolitan area, which includes Bonneville and Jefferson counties, recorded a population increased of 10.4 percent from 2000 to 2005. Because of this, services and other businesses have increased along with construction. The industrial makeup and average wages for the area set it apart from surrounding counties. Trade, transportation and utilities employ the largest number of workers at 24 percent with an average wage of \$25,170. The state is slightly above that, but surrounding counties are lower. Professional and business services employ 16 percent of the metropolitan workers with an average wage of \$43,640. The state's average wage in the same sector is \$35,670. Workers at the Idaho National Laboratory's offices in Idaho Falls fall under this category. Government, education and health services round out the top industries by number of workers and wages that exceed the state average. In construction activity in eastern Idaho, total permits for 2005 exceeded 2004 by 350 and total construction value was \$75 million more in 2005 projects than in 2004, according to the Wells Fargo Idaho Construction Report.

Idaho Falls has been discovered. With the area making national "hot spot" lists in many categories, even more growth can be expected. However, local city leaders and economic developers are trying to ensure smart, controlled growth.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- Fred Meyers in the Country Club Center in Idaho Falls is going to see some changes. Additions include a pizza bar, sushi bar, soup island and a remodeled deli. A Starbucks Coffee shop should be completed by the end of June. Many other Fred Meyer stores in the Northwest are also adding Starbucks.
- Idaho Central Credit Union opened two new branches in the Idaho Falls area bringing the total to three. They are located in each of the Wal-Mart supercenter. The third branch was built within the past year and a half.
- Liberty Square is a new retirement community that just opened in Ammon. The complex has 42 apartments, ranging from studio to two bedrooms, and caters to seniors 55 years and older. Trained staff is available around the clock and supervise all activities. The complex offers chef-prepared meals daily in the dining room, social and recreational programs, concierge services, underground parking and storage facilities. It is managed by Steve

Dunthorn who has eight years experience working with seniors. He recently moved back from Washington state where he managed a 136-apartment senior community.

- Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center had to cut the equivalent of 50 full-time jobs. These did not include registered nurses. Several reasons were given for the cutbacks including a steady drop in patients over the past three years and growth in area doctors that outpaced the population. Another reason could very well be the expansion of services at hospitals in surrounding counties. Virtually all the surrounding counties have worked on updating and increasing services in recent years. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center still offers the most services in the general area overall, especially in critical and trauma care.

### Madison County

- Cedar Ridge Animal Hospital and Boarding Kennel opened in Rexburg at the end of February. The business focuses on dogs and cats. The new 5,500-square-foot facility offers modern technology, including surgical facilities, and overnight care for animals if needed. The boarding kennel can hold up to 30 dogs at a given time with a separate boarding room for cats. Grooming services are also offered.
- The Westwood-Romance Theater in Rexburg now has a committee working in its behalf. Caught in a debate between restoration and demolition, a committee was formed to work with and advise the city council on the issue. Mayor Shawn Larsen appointed 13 committee members including previous Gilligan's Island star Dawn Wells. Many have extensive theater experience. The council liaison appointed by Larsen is Chris Mann, and Jack Bowman, city director for parks, recreation and arts, will work closely with the panel. The vision of the committee is to restore the building to its 1920s splendor. Fund raising events are soon to be scheduled.

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## PERSONAL, PER CAPITA INCOME DATA RECENTLY RELEASED

Statistics on income and wages are two of the most frequently requested labor market data items. Per capita income for 2004 for the metropolitan statistical areas and counties was released in April.

Income and how it is measured provide some insight into what is happening in the economy and what might happen down the road. But knowing what analysts mean when they talk about personal income and per capita personal income is often a challenge.

Personal income is the total of net earnings by place of residence, personal current transfer receipts such as Social Security and rental, dividend and interest income. Per capita personal income is the personal income of a given geographic area divided by its population. These income estimates are compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis at the national, state, regional, metropolitan, non-metropolitan and county levels. Annual county estimates are available from 1969 through 2004. This comprehensive, long-term economic data provide a consistent basis to measure and compare economic activity for Idaho and its counties.

Per capita income is often used as a simple measure of the wealth or purchasing power of the population of an area in comparison to other areas. The income estimates provide one of the best ways of understanding growth, decline and other changes in local economies. It is useful to examine the trends of the major components — earned income, property income and transfer payments — to gauge the changing structure, performance and composition of local economies.

Earned income consists of compensation for services including wages, salaries, benefits and proprietors' income. Contributions to government social insurance such as Medicare are subtracted, and an adjustment is made to convert earnings from the place of work to the place of residence. That adjustment reflects commuting patterns between counties.

Property income represents payment of dividends, interest and rents to people with capital assets, adjusted for the depreciation of those assets.

Transfer payments represent payments to persons and nonprofit institutions for which no current services are performed. These include government payments

for retirement and disability insurance benefits, medical payments like Medicare and Medicaid, unemployment insurance, welfare, veterans' benefits and federal grants and loans to students. Business transfer payments primarily include corporate gifts to nonprofit institutions and liability payments for personal injury. Farm-related transfer payments are not included here but are counted in farm proprietors' income.

The only 2005 income data that has been released was for the nation and the state's. A recap of that information shows the nation's per capita income was \$34,586, up 4.6 percent from \$33,050 in 2004, while Idaho's per capita income increased 4.8 percent from \$26,877 in 2004 to \$28,158. Idaho's per capita income ranked 44<sup>th</sup> in 2005 and was 81 percent of the national level.

### AREA INCOME

FYI Table 1 on page 26 provides personal income and per capita income for the United States, Idaho, the metropolitan and nonmetropolitan portions of Idaho and the smaller micropolitan areas for 2002, 2003 and 2004. This data also includes information on three areas that share boundaries with other states — Logan, Utah, which includes Franklin County; Jackson, Wyo., which includes Teton County; and Ontario, Ore., which includes Payette County. FYI Table 2 on page 26 provides the same data for Idaho's 44 counties.

Personal income in four out of Idaho's five metropolitan statistical areas grew faster than the national rate from 2003 to 2004. The Boise-Nampa, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls and Pocatello urban centers had personal income increases well above the 6 percent national average. Three out of the five areas also experienced per capita income gains that topped the national average of 5 percent.

The estimates released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis show Coeur d'Alene's personal income had the greatest increase at 8.9 percent. Idaho Falls had the next highest growth rate, jumping by 8.3 percent, followed by the Boise-Nampa area at 8 percent and Pocatello at 7.3 percent.

The Lewiston area, which experienced a 5.1 percent increase, was the only urban area not exceeding the national average.

Idaho's economic expansion, fueled by the recent population boom, was in full force during 2004, and that trend should continue in the near term. New businesses are locating in Idaho and are taking advantage of an attractive business climate ripe for economic gain. The increase in both personal and per capita income was due to a combination of factors including strong construction activity, which helped boost employment and wages, and the recovery of the manufacturing and high-tech sectors following significant declines from the 2001 national recession.

Income estimates were made for 361 metropolitan statistical areas across the country.

Personal income for Coeur d'Alene totaled more than \$3 billion in 2004, Idaho Falls was at \$2.94 billion and Pocatello was just over \$2 billion. The Boise-Nampa area had the state's highest personal income at just over \$16 billion. Lewiston had the lowest metropolitan total at nearly \$1.6 billion.

On a per capita basis, the Boise-Nampa area had the state's highest metropolitan average at \$30,545 while Pocatello had the lowest average at \$23,706. Nationwide the per-capita income was \$33,050.

The economic expansion also had a positive impact on the smaller micropolitan areas in Idaho, which all exceeded the increase nationally. The estimates show Blackfoot's personal income had the greatest increase at 10.2 percent. The Twin Falls area was next, jumping by 9.1 percent, followed by Rexburg at 8.7 percent and Moscow and Mountain Home at 7.8 percent each. Burley had the smallest growth rate at 7.1 percent.

On a per capita basis, the Twin Falls area was highest at \$25,730 while Rexburg was lowest at \$17,254.

## COUNTY INCOME

The Bureau also provided personal income and personal per capita income data for Idaho counties, and the figures showed slightly stronger growth in the non-metropolitan areas of the state. Personal income rose 8.6 percent in the nonmetropolitan areas compared to 8 percent in the urban ones. This was a significant turnaround from 2003 when personal income was up just 1.2 percent from 2002 in the nonmetropolitan counties while growth was 2.9 percent in the urban centers.

Forty-three counties posted 2004 growth rates that were higher than in 2003, underscoring the statewide strength of the recovery from the national recession. Only Payette County posted a decline, and it was minimal. The increase in personal income was 5.5 percent in Payette County in 2004 compared to 5.6 percent in 2003.

The following list includes highlights of the 2004 data that was released:

- Ada County had the highest personal income at \$12.152 billion.
- Blaine County had the highest per capita income at \$45,635 and has led the counties in that category since 1994.
- Power County had the largest percentage increase in personal income at 18.2 percent.
- Gooding County had the largest percentage increase in per capita income at 18.9 percent.
- Camas County had the lowest personal income at \$25 million.
- Madison County had the lowest per capita income at \$15,945, maintaining the 44<sup>th</sup> ranking it has held since 1969. Madison County, with a population of 30,226 in 2004, is home to Brigham Young University – Idaho, whose more than 10,000 students results in a low per capita income because many students either work at low-paying jobs or do not work at all during the school year.
- Clark County had the smallest percent increase, 0.5 percent, in personal income. It was also the only county that experienced a drop in per capita income, from \$24,411 in 2003 to \$23,806 in 2005, a 2.5 percent decrease.
- Only four counties – Blaine, Ada, Valley and Gooding – had per capita incomes above the national level.
- Only four counties – Nez Perce, Payette, Boise and Clark – experienced growth in personal income below the national average of 6 percent.

More information on personal and per capita income can be found on the Bureau of Economic Analysis Web site at <http://www.bea.gov>. Click on Regional for county and area data not only for Idaho but for all states.

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# F.Y.I. Tables

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FYI Table 1: Metropolitan & Micropolitan Area for Idaho — Personal and Per Capita Personal Income

Area name	Personal Income				Per capita personal income			
	(millions of dollars)			Percent change	(dollars)			Percent change
	2002	2003	2004	2003-2004 <sup>2</sup>	2002	2003	2004	2003-2004 <sup>2</sup>
United States <sup>3</sup>	8,872,871	9,157,257	9,705,504	6.0	30,810	31,484	33,050	5.0
Metropolitan portion	7,740,296	7,978,326	8,458,879	6.0	32,198	32,404	33,038	2.0
Nonmetropolitan portion	1,132,575	1,178,931	1,246,625	5.7	22,758	23,041	23,827	3.4
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>33,849</b>	<b>34,654</b>	<b>37,497</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>25,185</b>	<b>25,330</b>	<b>26,877</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Metropolitan Portion	22,836	23,503	25,386	8.0	26,819	27,001	28,417	5.2
Nonmetropolitan Portion	11,013	11,150	12,111	8.6	22,361	22,406	24,135	7.7
<b>METROPOLITAN AREAS</b>								
Boise City-Nampa	14,494	14,847	16,030	8.0	29,059	29,035	30,545	5.2
Coeur d'Alene	2,714	2,845	3,098	8.9	23,752	24,194	25,297	4.6
Idaho Falls	2,592	2,717	2,941	8.3	24,683	25,295	26,604	5.2
Lewiston-Clarkson, Wash.	1,478	1,519	1,596	5.1	25,601	26,078	27,222	4.4
Franklin County-Logan, Utah	2,096	2,202	2,378	8.0	19,493	20,259	21,761	7.4
Pocatello	1,871	1,893	2,031	7.3	22,155	22,368	23,706	6.0
<b>MICROPOLITAN AREAS</b>								
Blackfoot	858	842	928	10.2	20,251	19,606	21,485	9.6
Burley	871	842	902	7.1	21,245	20,606	22,230	7.9
Jackson, Wyo.-Idaho	1,495	1,584	1,703	7.6	58,885	61,482	64,987	5.7
Moscow	824	820	884	7.8	23,674	23,489	25,223	7.4
Mountain Home	649	655	707	7.8	22,205	22,828	24,499	7.3
Ontario, Ore-Idaho	1,018	1,058	1,113	5.3	19,340	20,020	21,048	5.1
Rexburg	676	675	734	8.7	16,607	16,117	17,254	7.1
Twin Falls	2,031	2,061	2,248	9.1	24,137	23,973	25,730	7.3

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1 - Per capita income was computed using Census bureau midyear population estimates.

2 - Per change calculated from unrounded data.



FYI Table 2: Personal Income and Per Capita Personal Income by County for Idaho 2002-2004

County/Area	Personal Income				Per capita personal income				
	(millions of dollars)			% change 2003- 2004 <sup>2</sup>	(dollars)			% change 2003- 2004 <sup>2</sup>	Rank in State
	2002	2003	2004		2002	2003	2004		
United States <sup>3</sup>	8,872,871	9,157,257	9,705,504	6.0	30,810	31,484	33,050	5.0	.
Metropolitan portion	7,740,296	7,978,326	8,458,879	6.0	32,198	32,404	33,038	2.0	.
Nonmetropolitan portion	1,132,575	1,178,931	1,246,625	5.7	22,758	23,041	23,827	3.4	.
Idaho	33,849	34,654	37,497	8.2	25,185	25,330	26,877	6.1	.
Metropolitan Portion	22,836	23,503	25,386	8.0	26,819	27,001	28,417	5.2	.
Nonmetropolitan Portion	11,013	11,150	12,111	8.6	22,361	22,406	24,135	7.7	.
<b>COUNTIES</b>									
Ada	11,021	11,268	12,152	7.8	34,470	34,637	36,543	5.5	2
Adams	78	80	85	6.0	22,382	23,141	24,311	5.1	16
Bannock	1,721	1,756	1,868	6.4	22,375	22,765	23,971	5.3	19
Bear Lake	117	121	129	6.1	18,610	19,190	20,579	7.2	38
Benewah	189	193	211	9.5	21,028	21,348	23,378	9.5	22
Bingham	858	842	928	10.2	20,251	19,606	21,485	9.6	30
Blaine	867	896	959	7.1	42,720	43,288	45,635	5.4	1
Boise	153	154	162	5.2	21,709	21,263	21,943	3.2	29
Bonner	800	837	903	7.8	20,936	21,378	22,658	6.0	24
Bonneville	2,196	2,321	2,503	7.8	25,760	26,632	27,888	4.7	5
Boundary	178	184	199	7.6	17,841	18,127	19,064	5.2	42
Butte	61	59	65	10.7	20,957	20,620	23,035	11.7	23
Camas	25	24	25	7.7	23,741	22,823	25,090	9.9	12
Canyon	2,809	2,908	3,149	8.3	19,304	19,148	19,945	4.2	40
Caribou	159	160	175	9.8	21,963	22,159	24,250	9.4	17
Cassia	497	497	529	6.4	23,066	23,068	24,733	7.2	13
Clark	23	22	22	0.3	24,548	24,411	23,806	-2.5	20
Clearwater	188	193	205	6.3	22,232	22,793	24,418	7.1	15
Custer	91	92	98	6.8	21,951	22,217	23,757	6.9	21
Elmore	649	655	707	7.8	22,205	22,828	24,499	7.3	14
Franklin	218	228	258	13.2	18,444	19,224	21,235	10.5	32
Fremont (includes Yellowstone Park)	237	229	252	9.9	19,889	18,845	20,464	8.6	39
Gem	300	306	332	8.6	19,234	19,375	20,806	7.4	37
Gooding	370	375	447	19.4	26,005	26,130	31,070	18.9	3
Idaho	303	304	329	8.1	19,538	19,682	21,039	6.9	35
Jefferson	396	395	439	11.1	20,041	19,535	21,071	7.9	34
Jerome	447	458	532	16.1	23,896	24,185	27,538	13.9	6
Kootenai	2,714	2,845	3,098	8.9	23,752	24,194	25,297	4.6	9
Latah	824	820	884	7.8	23,674	23,489	25,223	7.4	10
Lemhi	157	162	175	7.8	20,273	20,922	22,312	6.6	26
Lewis	86	88	100	14.4	23,201	23,401	26,969	15.2	8
Lincoln	87	86	97	13.1	20,464	20,018	22,550	12.6	25
Madison	440	446	482	8.1	15,253	15,000	15,945	6.3	44
Minidoka	374	345	373	8.0	19,226	17,864	19,441	8.8	41
Nez Perce	947	974	1,029	5.6	25,488	25,870	27,274	5.4	7
Oneida	68	70	75	6.9	16,435	17,081	18,168	6.4	43
Owyhee	212	210	234	11.4	19,357	18,955	21,269	12.2	31
Payette	431	455	480	5.6	20,351	21,177	22,248	5.1	27
Power	150	137	162	18.2	19,908	18,290	21,027	15.0	36
Shoshone	275	290	310	7.1	21,058	22,322	24,083	7.9	18
Teton	137	140	160	13.8	20,065	19,898	22,168	11.4	28
Twin Falls	1,584	1,603	1,717	7.1	24,206	23,913	25,217	5.5	11
Valley	219	226	246	9.0	28,723	29,064	30,947	6.5	4
Washington	194	200	213	6.6	19,490	19,994	21,229	6.2	33

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# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

**Agriculture Employment:** Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

**Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours:** The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Average Weekly Earnings:** Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

**Civilian Labor Force:** A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

**Covered Employers:** Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

**Durable Goods:** Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

**Employed:** Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

**Initial Claim:** Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

**Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA):** Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

**Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA):** Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban

centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

**Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment:** Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

**Nondurable Goods:** Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

**Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA):** Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

**Unemployed:** Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

**Unemployment Insurance:** Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

**Unemployment Rate:** The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

**Weekly Benefit Amount:** The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

**Weeks Claimed:** The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

**Weeks Compensated:** The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.